

Duxbury Mariner Sept. 19k 1996

Attorney General Supports Town on Library Bid

By Lesley Mahoney

The attorney general's office this week supported Duxbury's decision to go with the second-lowest bidder on its library reconstruction project, denying the protest of the lowest bidder, Seaver Construction Co. of Woburn.

The opinion supports the town's decision to award J. Slotnick Co. of Newton the \$4.7 million contract to convert the Upper Alden School into a new town library. Seaver failed to address two addenda to the project specifications in its \$4,464,600 bid. One was a list of subcontractors, their bids and who was disqualified; the other was a list of specifications.

Seaver's subsequent protest

took matters to the attorney general's office, which held hearings to determine "whether any violation of the public bidding laws has occurred."

In light of the attorney general's review, the town is set to move forward on the project with J. Slotnick. J. Slotnick's bid stands at \$4,686,485, project manager Deborah Bornheimer said. The company's original bid of \$4,591,485 represented a base bid and had been adjusted to incorporate alternate aspects. The additional \$95,000 will allow for a new roof to the 1951 addition and landscaping.

Bornheimer said there was enough money to include these provisions. Of the \$5.3 million appropriated, \$3 million will

come from town appropriations from the construction fund, \$2.1 million will be in the form of a state grant, and \$200,000 will come from a federal grant.

"I'm very pleased and relieved and I'm looking forward to moving forward with the Alden project as quickly as possible," Bornheimer said.

Town Manager Rocco Longo echoed her sentiments, saying, "The protest was denied, so we can move forward. We expected to prevail. We're thankful to the attorney general's office that they did this to expedite the process."

The process is set to begin tomorrow with a pre-construction conference, Bornheimer said.

"I anticipate immediate mobilization. I was anxious to start yes-

terday," she said.

Richard Farquharson, chief estimator for J. Slotnick, said, "We're delighted, of course. We're looking forward to the construction upon receipt of notice to proceed."

If construction starts this month, the plans will be in accordance with the original timetable, with the project's completion slated for September 1997.

Bornheimer also said the project's target of raising \$1 million privately for the interior of the building is just about realized. To date, \$950,000 has been pledged, two-thirds of which is in cash. The money will be used for interior design expenses, ranging from furnishings to telecommunications expenses.